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NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Senate Action To Renew the PATRIOT Act

March 2, 2006

I applaud the Senate for voting to renew the PATRIOT Act and overcoming the partisan attempts to block its passage. The terrorists have not lost the will or the ability to attack us. The PATRIOT Act is vital to the war on terror and defending our citizens against a ruthless enemy. This bill will allow our law enforcement officials to continue to use the same tools against terrorists that are already used against drug dealers and other criminals, while safeguarding the civil liberties of the American people.

Remarks at a State Dinner Hosted by President Abdul Kalam of India in New Delhi

March 2, 2006

Mr. President, Prime Minister, and distinguished guests, Laura and I thank you for such a warm welcome. It's a wonderful dinner tonight. We're grateful for your hospitality, and we appreciate the opportunity to visit your beautiful country.

It is home to a proud civilization. Thousands of years ago, the people of this region built great cities, established trading routes with distant lands, and created wonders of art and architecture. Its reputation for wealth and wisdom attracted many brave explorers—one of them never did complete his journey, and he ended up in America.

Like India, America respects faith and family and is rich in diversity. Americans are proud that our Nation is home to more than 2 million individuals of Indian decent. Both our nations can take pride in their achievements. People from India serve with distinction in American businesses, in the sciences and the arts. The contributions of our Indian American community have made America a better nation, and they've helped strengthen our ties with India.

The relationship between our two nations is strong, and it rests on a firm foundation. We share common interests rooted in common belief that freedom can change lives and transform nations. Today, our two democracies have formed a strategic partnership to bring the benefits of liberty to others, to expand global prosperity through free and fair trade, and to confront the challenges of our time. As great nations, we now have an opportunity to lead, and America values the leadership of the great nation of India.

Mr. President, again, Laura and I express our deepest heartfelt thanks. It's my honor now to toast to you, sir, and to the great nation of India.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:45 p.m. at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks in a Discussion With Business Students in Hyderabad, India

March 3, 2006

The President. Thank you for the warm welcome. You know, I was a Harvard Business School graduate. This isn't exactly how I went to class when I was there, but I am honored to be here at ISB.

Yesterday I had the honor of standing on the stage with your Prime Minister, talking about a new relationship between the United States and India. I am excited about our strategic partnership. I'm equally excited about the future of India. It is in the interest of the United States to be friends with India; it's in the interest of the United States to work for free and fair trade with India; it's in the interest of the United States that an entrepreneurial class grow in this great country. It's in the interest of India that an entrepreneurial class grow in this great country so that people can realize dreams and find good jobs.

You know, I said something really interesting, I thought interesting—otherwise, I wouldn't have said it—the other day in a speech I gave in Washington. There are—the middle class of India is 300 million people large. That's larger than the entire United States. And when America looks at India,